

[Częstochowa]

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Memorial Books of the Diaspora Communities

# Częstochowa

### **Memorial Book**

A project of The Public Committee for the Publication of a Memorial Book in Commemoration of the Częstochowa Community



"Encyclopedia of The Exiled" publishing house

Jerusalem

## A project in commemoration of the Częstochowa community by the public committee for the publication of the memorial book in Israel

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### A Few Words From the Editors

With a trembling heart and mixed feelings, we welcome the appearance of the book "Częstochowa" and we hereby come to express the depth of the joy and pride of each and every one from our city, that we have been finally privileged, despite the difficulties that continued for many years, to commemorate - and not just symbolically - the memory of our city, its history, institutions, public figures and of the [most] precious period of our own lives, in which we were born, raised, dreamed and fought.

Despite our fierce desire to tell in this book all there is to tell of the city's events from the time a Jewish settlement was established and arose in it, its people and its way of life, there will surely be those who will claim that we have not noticed and have not mentioned them, that we have left out this institution or that party. But if they will contemplate for a moment and turn their gaze upon the past years in which the activities concerning the publication of the book began, and recall that during the entire period we approached them with pleas and requests - to provide us with material regarding the episodes that are relevant and close to them, their baseless claims will be silenced because they will face, to our great sorrow, the saddening fact that only few shook off their apathy and reached out to us to cooperate with the work and give the required aid, in all respects.

From that response of just a few, who in their determination insisted in commemorating a great and important city, the Częstochowa dear to us all, there emerged and arose in this book of ours, the image of our city, its history, way of life and its mode of integration during its long periods of existence as a Jewish settlement, of particular prominence, among the most important cities in Poland.

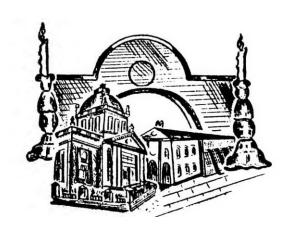
The editorial board has established:

- a) That all the details (facts, names and dates) in our book are printed exclusively at the responsibility of the authors;
- b) In order not to blemish the completeness of the writing and its form, in some articles and lists, items pertaining to the Holocaust period and after it were not excluded and they are given in brackets;
- c) In the *Important Figures from Israel and Abroad* section, the details provided are those received with the help of their relatives, their acquaintances and their loved ones.

Unfortunately, we were not able to encompass all the great figures worthy of being mentioned in our book and we were forced to also use material that has already been published in the books: "Hurbn Tshenstokhov" [The Destruction of Częstochowa], "Tshenstokhover Yidn" [Jews of Częstochowa] and "Tshenstokhov".

May this book of ours become a highly-important possession in each and every home of those from our city and for their families. We are sure that its content is inlaid with everlasting commemoration for future generations who will always remember the Jewish settlement in Częstochowa, that sustained glorious Jewish life through many generations and stood courageously until its annihilation, together with the rest of the Jewish communities of the [Jewish] Diaspora in Poland.

The Editorial Board



Emblem of the Book Committee of the Immigrants from Częstochowa in Israel

This emblem incorporates three components and these are:

- 1. On its right and left are lit memorial candles in remembrance of the martyrs of our annihilated city, whose memory will be with us for ever and ever!
- 2. The gate this is the same gate which was called, for some reason, "die alte rande" [the old border]. The origin of this name is unknown to us but, according to legend passed from generation to generation this gate stood at the entry to the "ghetto", in which Jews were allowed to stay without spending the night in the "holy" city and they could enter only through the gate in the morning hours and leave through it approaching evening, on all weekdays (except for Saturdays and [Jewish] holidays, on which Jews were generally left outside the gate).

This gate exists until today in the old marketplace, in the alley leading to the Jewish streets, to the gate of *Garncarska* [St.] and *Nadrzeczna* [St.], by the river "Warta" and the famous "Kastens" [crates] (the crates put in this location by the "fishermen" and in which they kept the fish they caught in the river "Warta").

3. The two buildings under the gate - they are the synagogues: the "Old" and the "New" - without Jews...

The "Book Committee" has chosen this emblem as a title for all its correspondences with all vestiges of Częstochowa around the world in all matters [concerning] the commemoration of our hallowed community.

[Same editorial as above, p.11, but in Yiddish]

[End of editorial in Yiddish from p.11]

### Members of the Book Committee

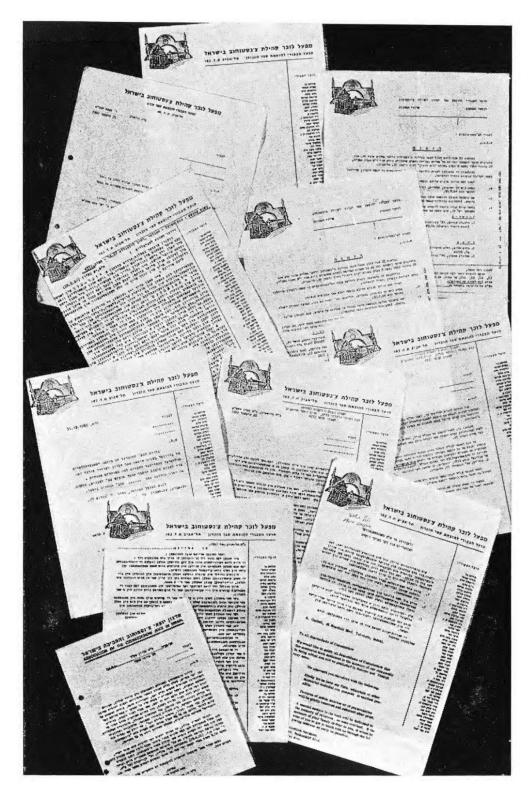


Seated from right to left: Gad Freitag, Noach Edelist, Avraham Gottlieb, Yaakov Leslau, Yaakov Lewit, Dr. Elyahu Horowitz, Moshe Chaim Tiberg, Lipman Rajcher; standing (ditto): Zvi Wernik, Chaim Ze'ev Rosen, Zvi Yosef Kaufman, Ezriel Ben-Moshe, Chaim Birnholtz, David Koniecpoler, Simcha Bunim Szancer, Elhanan Plai and Moshe Yaskil.



The book's Editorial Committee

From right to left: M. Ch. Tiberg, Sh. D. Yerushalmi (guest), Y. Leslau, A. Gottlieb, E. Ben-Moshe



This print includes only part of the numerous requests by the "Book Committee" to [former] residents of Częstochowa regarding the remittance of material, images and material help for the publication of the "Memorial Book"